

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP - TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE
PRESIDENT

1. SUMMARY: GAMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ PRESENTED ME WITH SEVERAL
IDEAS FOR FUTURE VENEZUELAN-U.S. COOPERATION THAT PRESIDENT
PEREZ AND THE SECRETARY MIGHT DISCUSS. THESE INCLUDED COLLABORATION
IN THE GOV'S MASSIVE PROGRAM OF FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS, JOINT
ACTION ON REGIONAL FOOD RESERVERS AND ENERGY PROJECTS AND THE
EXAMINATION OF POSSIBILITIES FOR U.S. INVESTMENT IN VENEZUELA.
UNFORTUNATELY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LATTER, THESE ALL
SEEMED TO ASSUME U.S. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.
I TOLD RODRIGUEZ THAT WE WERE INTERESTED IN EMPHASIZING SCIENTIFIC
AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING

CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE FEBRUARY 9 TO TALK ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S
VISIT. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE AND THE CORDIPLAN STAFF WERE
CHARGED WITH COORDINATING THE SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE
VISIT. HE THOUGHT AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH ME WOULD HELP
HIM BETTER ADVISE PRESIDENT PEREZ ON WHAT TOPICS MIGHT BE
COVERED IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY.

3. RODRIGUEZ REFERRED AS HE HAS IN THE PAST TO THE CURRENT
OPENING OF A "NEW ERA" IN U.S. - VENEZUELAN RELATIONS NOW THAT
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THE NATIONALIZATIONS OF THE PETROLEUM AND IRON INDUSTRIES

ARE ACCOMPLISHED. IN HIS VIEW THE NEW ERA HOLDS PROSPECTS FOR EXTENSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE COMMENTED THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD BE OF "TRANSCENDENTAL IMPORTANCE" IN THAT RESPECT.

4. RODRIGUEZ ENVISAGED SUCH COOPERATION AS TAKING PLACE ON BOTH THE "CONTINENTAL" AND BILATERAL LEVELS. WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST HE SUGGESTED EXAMINING SUCH POSSIBILITIES AS:

- VENEZUELAN AND U.S. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER "WEALTHIER" LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO EXPAND THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO (GMA) PROGRAM SO THAT UP TO 20 PERCENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS COULD GO TO STUDENTS FROM THE POORER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. A "FOUNDATION" WOULD BE SET UP FOR THE PURPOSE.
- A JOINT EFFORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL FOOD RESERVES (NOT OTHERWISE EXPLAINED).
- COOPERATION IN PROMOTING ENERGY PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS.

ON THE BILATERAL SIDE RODRIGUEZ MENTIONED:

- COLLABORATION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GMA SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE U.S. BY BRINGING DOWN TUITION COSTS.
- OTHER UNDEFINED PROJECTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF VENEZUELA'S HUMAN RESOURCES.
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A BILATERAL MECHANISM TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES UNDER THE ANDEAN PACT FOR U.S. DIRECT PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN VENEZUELA, PARTICULARLY MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN LARGE GOV DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUCH AS THE PROPOSED COAL AND STEEL COMPLEX IN ZULIA.

5. I TRIED, AS I HAVE BEFORE WITH RODRIGUEZ, TO THROW COLD WATER ON THE NOTION THAT THE USG WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GMA, WHILE NOTING OUR ADMIRATION FOR THE AUDACIOUS NATURE OF THAT PROGRAM. WITH RESPECT TO ENERGY AND FOOD I SAID THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO DISCUSS THE CIEC AND THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD AT THE 7TH SPECIAL UNGA. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE I SAID THAT THE VIEWS OF PRESIDENT PEREZ ON SPECIFIC LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS--THE PANAMA CANAL, HUMAN RIGHT AND CHILE, BOLIVIA'S ACCESS TO THE SEA AND THE LIKE-- WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT DETENTE, ANGOLA AND THE MIDDLE EAST COULD USEFULLY BE DISCUSSED.

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FINALLY, I AGREED WITH RODRIGUEZ THAT WE ARE ENTERING A NEW STAGE OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, A STAGE CALLING FOR INTENSIFIED BILATERAL COOPERATION. IN THAT CONTEXT I NOTED OUR INTEREST IN STRESSING COOPERATION IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL FIELDS.

6. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE NOTED PREVIOUSLY, GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ TENDS TO THINK BIG. UNFORTUNATELY FOR US, HE IS ALSO INCLINED TO THINK OF COOPERATION IN TERMS OF COST SHARING--AN ARRANGEMENT

THAT MAY WORK WITH THE EUROPEANS ON OCCASION BUT IS CURRENTLY
OUTSIDE OUR REALITIES. THE IDEA FOR A JOINT EXAMINATION
OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IS INTERESTING, ALTHOUGH I HAVE
SOME DOUBTS THAT RODRIGUEZ COULD SELL IT WITHIN THE GOV.

7. THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON RODRIGUEZ'S PRESENTATION
WOULD BE WELCOME.
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